BIOMETRICS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DoD Biometrics Sponsors USMEPCOM Biometric Technology Demonstration

DoD Biometrics and USMEPCOM Personnel Tour Pittsburgh MEPS
To Begin Biometric Enrollment Process Requirements Work

WASHINGTON, DC, and NORTH CHICAGO, IL, January 12, 2005– Department of Defense Biometrics and the United States Military Entrance Processing Command (USMEPCOM) today announced plans for a biometric technology demonstration designed to improve the processing of military enlistees. USMEPCOM will begin using biometric technologies to positively identify and track applicants for the Armed Services at six Military Entrance Processing Stations in the United States and Puerto Rico, along with 21 associated Mobile Examining Team sites.

This week, DoD Biometrics and USMEPCOM personnel visit the Pittsburgh Military Entrance and Processing Station (MEPS) to examine current enlistment processes and application tracking. This on-site visit will allow DoD Biometrics and USMEPCOM experts to develop new procedures for incorporating fingerprint-based technology into the standard military entrance and processing activities.

"Verification of identity through biometrics is essential to the security of the nation's war fighters," says Col. Lon M. Yeary, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander of USMEPCOM. "Every year, over 240,000 of this nation's finest men and women enter military service. Capturing the biometric-based identity of individuals at their very first contact with a DoD activity, and then verifying individuals' identity as they process for the Armed Forces increases national security, supports the war fighting mission, heightens the security of applicants, and standardizes the DoD e-Signature process."

The biometric technology demonstration is intended to prevent fraudulent entry into the Armed Forces and maintain the integrity of the military's aptitude tests and medical examinations. The identification-with-certainty that biometrics provides will verify the identities of applicants, track their progress through the entrance process, and attach electronic biometric-based signatures to key electronic documents.

Joining DoD Biometrics in this demonstration is the Defense Manpower Data Center, which has a long-standing goal of improving identity management throughout the Department of Defense.

"USMEPCOM is among those at the forefront of Department-wide efforts to use innovative ways to apply biometric technology to critical military applications," explained John D. Woodward, Jr., Director of the DoD Biometrics Management Office (BMO). "This biometric technology demonstration will hopefully become a model for how we can use better identity management throughout the Department. Working as a partner with USMEPCOM, our DoD Biometrics Fusion Center will closely monitor the technology demonstration to ensure that lessons learned can be shared with the national security community."

The MEPCOM project stems from DoD Biometrics' ongoing efforts to encourage the use of biometric technology throughout the Department. DoD Biometrics seeks proposals for biometric technology demonstrations in the Department of Defense. To learn more, please visit www.biometrics.dod.mil.

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The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) is responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and use of biometric technologies for the Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies, to support the warfighter and enhance Joint Service interoperability. The Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) is the test and evaluation unit of the BMO. The BMO reports to the Army Chief Information Officer (CIO/G-6) who acts on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics, the Secretary of the Army. The recently formed Identity Protection and Management Senior Coordinating Group provides senior-level, DoD-wide strategic guidance to the BMO, given its mission to oversee efforts in the areas of Biometrics, Public Key Infrastructure, and Smart Cards.